

A co-ed residence is being considered as one way to help solve the student housing problem.

The plan, not definite as yet, is that two residences will be built, one of which may be used to house both male and female students until such time as the planned women's residence can be completed.

Provost A. A. Ryan admits that such a plan could involve complications, but does not feel any of them would be insoluble.

Gateway Features interviewed several people on campus to find the reaction toward the idea of a co-ed residence.

**SLOW DOWN**

Mrs. G. G. Sparling, dean of women, when confronted with the idea of a co-ed residence, reacted immediately with: "Don't start taking applications yet!" She is opposed to co-educational living among students because it would not, in her opinion, fulfil the ideals of residence life.

"Residence life should be an education in itself—an education in living graciously, in forming deep and precious friendships, in enjoying the companionship and close feeling which comes from living a corporate life with students of one's own sex."

Such "educational living," Mrs. Sparling feels, would be hampered in a co-ed residence, because emotions would interfere with the desired relations among students.

**SAD DILLUSIONMENT**

Furthermore, the familiarity which comes with close living between the sexes would be disillusioning. "Men and women have, and at university age should have, ideals of each other. In the familiarity of a co-ed residence, these ideals would

be shattered, to the benefit of neither sex." Living together would also necessitate self-imposed discipline, which Mrs. Sparling feels, would be an unnecessary frustration and a distraction from studies.

**Her solution to the problem of housing women students is simple . . . "Build the women's residence first!"**

Nick Moroz, rector of off-campus, co-educational St. John's Institute, generally agrees with Mrs. Sparling's views. St. John's has operated for approximately 12 years, and now houses 86 students. The sexes are housed on separate floors, women on the third floor, men confined to the first and second.

**CONSTANT EXPOSURE**

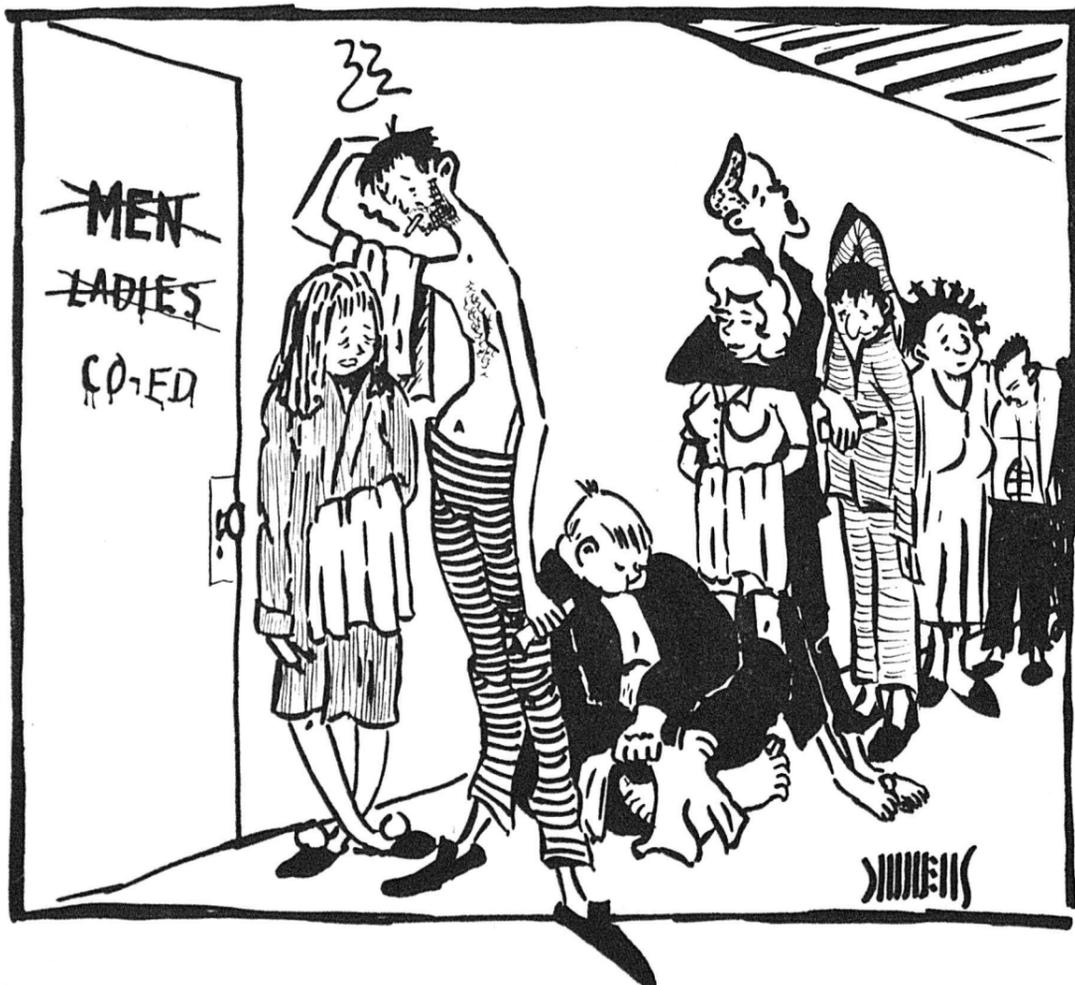
Students are allowed to mingle in the second floor lounge and in the dining room.

"The boys and girls are exposed to each other almost constantly," said Mr. Moroz. "It is impossible to keep them entirely on their separate floors, and the problem has been getting worse. In fact, we have had to appoint a second night janitor." He added that members of the Institute are considering building



# GO CO-ED?

With Violet Vlcek



another residence so complete separation of boys and girls would be possible.

Mr. Moroz feels that, because students are too concerned with attracting the opposite sex, close friendships are not formed between boys and girls.

However, the residents of St. John's themselves, rallied unanimously in loyal support of co-educational living. They issued a friendly invitation to your features reporter to spend a week living at the Institute. "Just so you can see how nice it is."

**MORAL TEMPTATION**

"Perhaps, if you are looking for it, there is more opportunity for misbehaviour," admitted a female resident, "but as for moral temptation, I never felt any, and I think this danger is over-emphasized by people who have never experienced co-ed living themselves."

The boys agreed. "Morality isn't a matter of rules, it depends on the people involved. We obey the rules because we are proud of St. John's and enjoy living here."

Both male and female residents feel the floor rules are well obeyed, and that co-ed living does not interfere with studying.

The boys, especially, feel co-ed living is more conducive to 'gracious living' than a monosexual residence life.

"Here if a few boys are talking in the lounge," said a former Assiniboia resident, "we really watch our language. A girl might come in, and you wouldn't want to embarrass her. In a men's residence we sometimes

get too rowdy."

**BEST BEHAVIOR**

The presence of girls in the dining hall demands gentlemanly behavior, and from the girl's point of view: "You know there are men in the building and you are careful to be a lady all the time."

We also interviewed the common 'man about campus' including several frosh. Their reactions were varied, but generally favorable.

A rugged engineer, being informed we may have a co-ed residence in the future, exerted a superb command of his intellectual faculties and orated magnificently: "This idea is a manifestation of the fact that we have evolved from the primitive era when sex was considered an important factor in our lives. We have psychologically matured. Considering things realistically and in the proper perspective, the only acceptable attitude of an adult member of our society toward the possibility of having a co-ed residence is . . . WHOOPPEE!"

An exchange student from Pakistan said: "A co-ed residence is the only thing Moscow University has that is worth copying."

A freshette began cautiously. "Well, my father knew the house doctor at . . . (one of those summer resort hotels) . . . and the statistics there are, well, quite statistical. But personally, I think it might be fun!"

And our male frosh, with all the sagacity of a first-year education student, concluded his dubiously favorable opinion with "Well, we do live dangerously anyway."